

STATEMENT
OF THE
U. S. COAST GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME
17 OCTOBER 1985

THE COAST GUARD APPRECIATES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON H.R. 2768, H.R. 2013, AND S. 630. THESE BILLS WOULD ALLOW PAYMENT OF REWARDS BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF FELONS INVOLVED IN HOMICIDES OR KIDNAPPINGS OF FEDERAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

THESE BILLS REPRESENT ANOTHER STRONG INITIATIVE IN CONGRESS' CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH ILLICIT DRUGS AND ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS. THE LAST TIME THE COAST GUARD TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE YOU WERE CONSIDERING H.R. 2132 AND THE PROBLEMS IN BRINGING MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKERS TO JUSTICE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S ATTENTION WAS THEN FOCUSED ON THE DIFFICULTIES WITH DRUG PROSECUTIONS UNDER 21 USC 955A-D (SOMETIMES CALLED THE "BIAGGI-GILMAN BILL").

THE ISSUE BEING EXAMINED TODAY IS ANOTHER RESULTING DIRECTLY FROM THIS ADMINISTRATION'S WAR ON DRUGS. AS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS HAVE INCREASED, VIOLENT RETALIATION BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS AGAINST FEDERAL OFFICERS HAS BECOME AN UNFORTUNATE REALITY. THE COAST GUARD HAS BEEN FORTUNATE SO FAR NOT TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS INSIDIOUS SIDE EFFECT OF THE DRUG TRADE. NEVERTHELESS, THE COAST GUARD WHOLE-HEARTEDLY SUPPORTS ANY PROPOSAL WHICH WILL HELP DETECT AND PREVENT, AS WELL AS PUNISH, THOSE ATTEMPTING TO HARM FEDERAL OFFICERS BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFORTS IN FIGHTING AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS.

THE COAST GUARD SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF BEING ABLE TO PAY REWARDS TO
HELP PROTECT FEDERAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND PUNISH
THOSE WHO HARM THEM. WE DEFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AS TO
HOW THIS IDEA SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED LEGISLATIVELY.